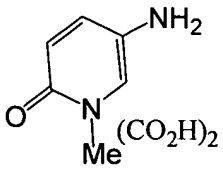
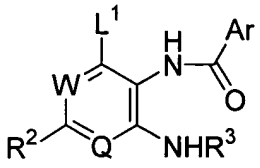
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 22, and spanning to page 23, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a useful intermediate for synthesis of the compound of the present invention, that is, 5-amino-1-methyl-2(1H)-pyridone oxalate represented by the following formula:



A2

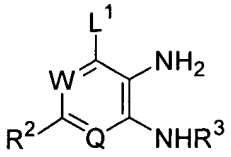
processes for producing the compound of the present invention and a synthetic intermediate of the compound of the present invention, that is, a process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined below, respectively), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2)

represented by the following formula:



(A2)

(wherein L^1 represents a halogen atom; R^2 represents 1) hydrogen, 2) a halogen atom, 3) formula $-NR^6R^7$ (wherein R^6 and R^7 are the same as or different from each other and represent hydrogen, a C2-C5 acyl group, a C1-C8 alkyl group or a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group, or R^6 and R^7 represent a C2-C5 saturated cyclic amino group which is formed with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, whereupon this ring may contain an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a nitrogen atom other than the nitrogen atom and may be substituted with a C1-C4 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom), 4) a C2-C8 alkynyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl, a C1-C4 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, 5) a C3-C8 alkenyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 6) a C1-C8 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group, or 7) a C1-C8 alkoxy group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group; R^3 represents 1) a C3-C8 alkynyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 2) a C3-C8 alkenyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 3) a C1-C8 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom,

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a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 4) an optionally substituted aryl group, 5) an optionally substituted heteroaryl group, 6) a 1,2-dihydro-2-oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom may further be substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group or b-3) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, 7) a dihydroxopyrimidyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group or b-3) a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group or 8) a dihydroxo or tetrahydrodioxopyrazinyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxy, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group, or b-3) a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group; and Q and W are the same as or different from each other and each represents N or CH), to react with an acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X represents a halogen atom; and Ar represents 1) an optionally substituted aryl group, 2) an optionally substituted heteroaryl group, 3) an

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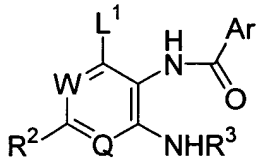
oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is substituted with a C1-C6 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, or 4) an oxopyrimidyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is substituted with a C1-C6 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group);

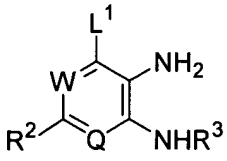
a process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:

A2



(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) represented by the following formula:



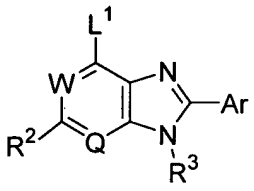
(A2)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to react in the presence of pyridine with an

acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X and Ar have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);

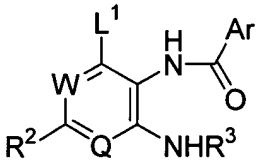
the above-mentioned process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or anylaminobenzene compound (A3), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyrimidinyl group;

a process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:

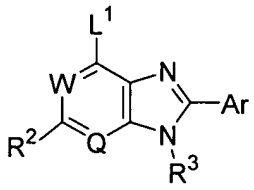


(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in the presence of

$POCl_3$;

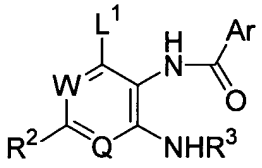
a process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



A2

(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:

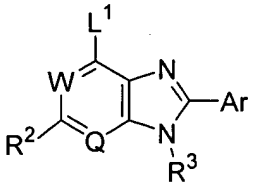


(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in the presence of hydrochloric acid or using hydrochloride of an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3);

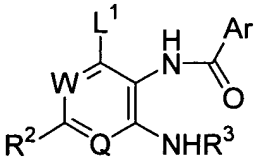
a process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a

salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



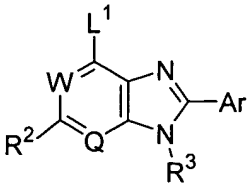
(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in NMP (1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone) under heating;

the above-mentioned process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyridinyl group;

a process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following

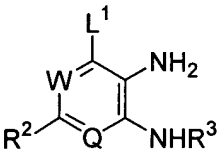
formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) represented by the following formula:

A2

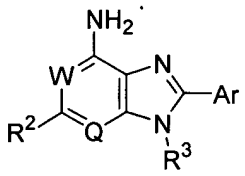


(A2)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to react with an acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X and Ar have the same meanings as defined above, respectively); and then subjecting the product to ring-closure reaction;

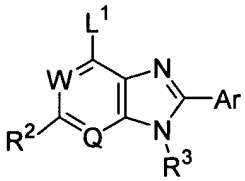
the above-mentioned process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein the aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) is converted in one-pot reaction into the imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4);

a process for producing an aminoimidazopyridine compound, aminomidazopyrimidine compound or aminoimidazobenzene compound (A5), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the formula:



(A5)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises aminating an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4) represented by the following formula:

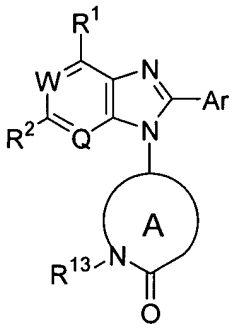


(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);

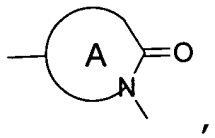
the above-mentioned process for producing an aminoimidazopyridine compound, aminoimidazopyrimidine compound or aminoimidazobenzene compound (A5), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyridinyl group; and

a process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (C3), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the formula:



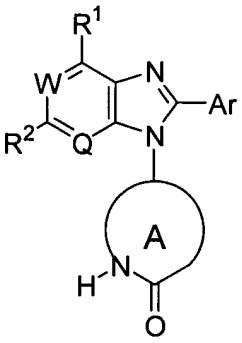
(C3)

(wherein R^{13} means a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group, or an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group; and R^1, the formula:



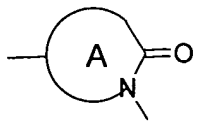
,

R^2, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises alkylating an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (C2) represented by the following formula:



(C2)

(wherein R^1 represents 1) hydrogen, 2) hydroxyl, 3) a halogen atom, 4) an optionally substituted C1-C8 alkyl group or 5) formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are the same as or different from each other and each represents hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl group or a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group, or a C2-C5 saturated cyclic amino group which is formed with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, whereupon this ring may contain oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen other than the nitrogen atom and may be substituted with a C1-C4 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom; the formula:



represents dihydrooxopyridinyl or -pyrimidyl, or dihydro- or tetrahydropyrazinyl; and R^2, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively.--

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^3 represents 1) an optionally substituted pyridyl group, 2) an optionally substituted pyrimidyl group, 3) a 1,2-dihydro-2-oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally